AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, the method comprising the following steps:

a) incubating an ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF) with urea,

b) providing a test medium comprising unquantified ADAMTS-13,

c) adding from 0.5 to 5 U per ml of said ADAMTS-13-free, urea treated von Willebrand factor to the test medium to form a reaction medium,

d) incubating the reaction medium,

e) adding platelets to the incubated reaction medium, and

f) quantifying the ADAMTS-13 activity based on the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of the added platelets in the incubated reaction medium

~~in which from 0.5 to 5 U of an ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF)~~ [[,]] ~~which has previously been incubated with urea~~[[,]] ~~is/are added~~[[,]] ~~per ml~~[[,]] ~~to the test medium and~~[[,]] ~~after incubation with the test medium~~[[,]] ~~the ADAMTS-13 activity is determined by way of the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, the method comprising the following steps:

a) aggregating platelets by incubating the platelets with ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF),

b) providing a test medium comprising an unquantified ADAMTS-13 activity,

c) adding the test medium to the aggregated platelets, and

d) quantifying the ADAMTS-13 activity based on the dissociation of the platelet aggregates

~~in which platelets are added to ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF)~~[[,]] ~~with the platelets aggregating and the test medium then being added to this mixture and the ADAMTS-13 activity being determined by way of the dissociation of the platelet aggregates.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is carried out in the presence of ristocetin.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the dissociation of the platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a serine protease inhibitor is used.

7. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the test medium is blood plasma, blood serum, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, cell culture supernatant or cell extract.

18. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic kit, containing an ADAMTS-13-free VWF and platelets, as well as urea for pretreating the ADAMTS-13-free VWF.

19. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ADAMTS-13-free VWF and the urea are present in one container.

20. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 18, wherein said kit additionally contains ristocetin.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the method is carried out in the presence of ristocetin.

22. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 22.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a serine protease inhibitor is used.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the test medium is blood plasma, blood serum, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, cell culture supernatant or cell extract.

25. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 19, wherein said kit additionally contains ristocetin.